

To the . . .

**Chairman and Councillors of
the Cheltenham Rural District
Council. . . .**

Gentlemen,

*As Medical Officer of Health I have pleasure
in submitting to you my Annual Report on the
sanitary conditions of the District.*

*Together with the Report are furnished the
Statistical Tables, &c., required by the Local
Government Board.*



REPORT.

Following a year when the average sickness-rate and death-rate were exceptionally low, the death-rate for the year past contrasts a little unfavorably. Although higher than the average for the last ten years, yet when compared with the average in the Rural Districts of England and Wales, a death-rate of ^{14.3}~~14.3~~ per 1,000 of the population living, is still happily a low one. This is calculated on an average population estimated at 4,680.

The increased death-rate is in no way due to any preventable causes. The deaths have been mainly among old people, nearly a half of the total number being over 65 years of age.

There has been no special influence noticeable as affecting the death-rate, nor, with the exception of Measles, which disease was prevalent at the commencement of the year, have there been any epidemics of great severity.

The birth-rate shows no marked change. During the last ten years there has been a steady decrease in the number of births, but the rate for the year, of 20·5 per 1,000 of the population living, is only slightly below the average for the last ten years.

The Infantile Mortality is subject to great variations. It has been as high as 120 per 1,000 births registered, and as low as 20 per 1,000. The average for the last 10 years is 80 per 1000. During the last year the rate was 52 per 1,000 births registered.

The estimated population for the District to the middle of the year is 4,680, an estimate which is probably inaccurate owing to the somewhat increased number of inhabited buildings. At the last census period, the error of estimated population amounted to nearly 400 in excess of the actual census number. At the next census the population is likely to prove in excess of the estimated number. The excess of births over deaths for the year is 30.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases although few, have been in excess of the average for the past ten years. They were due mainly to Measles, a malady

that proves frequently fatal to children owing to the little importance attached to it in the first place by parents. Some deaths have been attributed to Influenza, and one was due to Diphtheria.

Two schools were closed on the instruction of the Education Authorities for mild outbreaks of Measles and Scarlet Fever.

The work done with regard to the special sanitary condition of the many cowsheds in the District has borne good fruit. Much still remains to be done. It is difficult to judge of the effects of the experiment made in appointing a Veterinary Surgeon to make routine examinations of the herds of milch cows, in the short time during which such examinations have been made. In an isolated District without the powers of compensation for the destruction of tuberculous beasts, any improvement must be due to the intelligent and loyal co-operation of the cow keepers. So far as happy results go, the Report furnished by Mr. BRAIN gives ample testimony.

The adoption of Building Bye-laws has in nowise proved an hindrance to building operations. Dwelling houses of the artisan and villa type are being rapidly erected. Difficulties still arise and will arise in the method of sewage disposal where sewers do not exist, but the constant efforts of the Surveyor are I believe bearing fruit, and nuisances are less frequently occurring from this cause.

The sewerage works at Prestbury and Shurdington receive careful attention, and at present prove adequate, and are working efficiently. Extended sewerage, in a water-laden District like Prestbury, must ultimately prove of great benefit to the health of the community.

There is some considerable increase in the number of dwelling houses receiving a water supply direct from the mains in the neighbourhood of the town, but the water supplies in the outlying villages remain much as before. Those supplies under the control of the Council have received proper attention both as to purity and sufficiency.

Circulars and memoranda from the Local Government Board concerning Unqualified Medical Practice, Administrative Measures against Tuberculosis, and on Closure of and Exclusion from School have been received, and the provisions contained therein put into operation as far as possible.

No advantage has been taken in the District of the arrangements made to obtain bacteriological examinations of specimens from cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Tuberculosis. In this latter case, I think it desirable that a bacteriological confirmation should invariably be made.

Systematic inspections have been made by your Officers and the routine work of the Inspector of Nuisances has been thorough and satisfactory. There has been no hindrance to the proper execution of the duties from the fact of the Inspector being a part-time Officer. A Report of the work done is appended.



VITAL STATISTICS

SUMMARY.

Area of District in acres	...	18,401
Population at 1901 census	...	4,640
Inhabited dwellings at 1901 census	...	1,034
Average number of persons per house at 1901 census	...	4.4
Average number of persons per acre at 1901 census	1 to 3½ acres	
Estimated population to middle of 1909		4,680
Death-rate for 1909		14.3
Average death-rate for previous 10 years		11.6
Birth-rate for 1909	...	20.5
Average birth-rate for previous 10 years		21.1
Infant mortality per 1,000 births registered for 1909		52.0
Average infantile mortality per 1,000 births registered for previous 10 years	...	80.1

Population.

The estimated population to the middle of 1909 is probably some 200 below the actual population. The correction during the coming census will tend to the lowering of the birth and death-rates.

The average natural increase of population in the increase of births over deaths is about 30 per annum.

Births

Of the births registered, 57 were males and 39 females. There were no illegitimate births registered during the year.

Birth-rate

On the estimated population, the birth-rate was 20·5—a somewhat lower rate than the average for the ten years, and about equal to the rate for the last five years.

Infantile
Mortality

Five children died under the age of one year. Three of these were due to premature birth or congenital defects. The percentage of infant deaths to total births is 5·2 and the infantile mortality per 1,000 births registered is 52·0. The average for the last ten years on the same basis amounts to 80·1. The highest for any one year during the ten years being 120 per mille, and the lowest 20 per mille.

Deaths

The deaths of those resident within the District numbered 67. Of these 55 were registered in the District and 12 outside.

These 67 were divided between males and females in the proportion of 30 of the former to 37 of the latter. Of the total, 3 were due to accident and one to suicide.

Death-rate

The true death-rate, excluding deaths from violence, and one death of an unknown person, not of the District, and also deaths of prematurely born children, who did not survive birth more than a few hours, is 10·2. The death-rate from all causes and at all ages being 14·3, is somewhat higher than the average for the last 10 years.

Age Incidence at
Death

The average age at death was 42 years for the males and 59 for the females. Of the total deaths, one was of a person over 90 years of age, 8 were over 80, 20 over 70, and 6 over 60.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Small Pox ..								
Measles ..	4		4					
Scarlet Fever ..								
Whooping Cough ..								
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	I			I				
Croup ..								
Enteric ..								
Epidemic Influenza ..	2					I	I	
Diarrhoea ..								
Enteritis ..								
Puerperal Fever ..								
Erysipelas ..								
Other Septic Diseases ..								
Phthisis ..	3				I	2		
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	I	I						
Cancer—Malignant Disease ..	3						3	
Bronchitis ..	3						3	
Pneumonia ..	4					2	2	
Pleurisy ..								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	I					I		
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ..	I					I		
Veneral Diseases ..								
Premature Birth ..	2	2						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..								
Heart Diseases ..	15	2			2	3	8	
Accidents ..	3		I	I		I		
Suicides ..	I					I		
Vascular System ..	7					3	4	
All other causes ..	16					5	11	
ALL CAUSES ..	67	5	5	2	3	20	32	—

CHEL TENHAM RURAL—FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.			DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	Deaths of Non-residents registe'd in District	Deaths of Residents registe'd beyond District	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registe'd	Number	Rate*	Number				Rate*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1899	4995	129	25.8	14	108.0	46	9.3			11	56	11.2	
1900	5045	108	21.4	10	92.0	57	10.0			5	55	10.9	
1901	4640	106	22.8	6	56.6	62	13.3			5	66	14.2	
1902	4645	125	26.9	15	120.0	54	10.5			8	60	12.9	
1903	4650	88	18.9	5	56.8	54	11.6			4	58	12.4	
1904	4655	86	18.4	5	58.1	34	7.3			4	38	8.5	
1905	4660	87	18.6	6	68.9	51	10.9			6	57	12.2	
1906	4665	87	18.6	7	80.4	47	10.0			11	58	12.4	
1907	4670	91	18.8	11	120.8	55	11.7			12	67	14.3	
1908	4675	98	20.9	2	20.0	33	7.0			2	35	7.4	
Averages for years													
1899—	4730	100	21.1	8.1	80.1	49.3	10.1	—	—	6.8	55	11.6	
1908													
1909	4680	96	20.5	5	52.0	55	11.7			12	67	14.3	

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Cancer

Three deaths only were caused by Cancer at the ages of 70, 72, and 73 respectively. One occurred in a hill parish and two in the vale. The percentage of deaths from Cancer of the total number of deaths was 4·4, giving a mortality rate of ·6 per 1000 at all ages living.

Phthisis

Only 3 deaths were certified as directly due to Phthisis, and one other as being caused by tubercular disease of the brain. The total deaths from tubercular affections was only 5·8 % of the total number of deaths registered, which gives a mortality rate of ·8 per mille at all ages living.

Diseases of the
Respiratory
System

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 8 deaths, or a mortality rate of 1·6 per mille at all ages living.

Diseases of the
Vascular
System

Included with these diseases are cases of cerebral hemorrhage and other diseases due to vascular degenerations. The total of 15 gives a mortality rate of 3 per mille at all ages living.

Zymotic
Diseases

Measles was responsible for 4 deaths, and Diphtheria for 1. Influenza is not included with the Zymotic diseases. Deaths from Zymotic diseases amounted to 7·4 of the total deaths, and the mortality rate for these diseases was 1 per mille.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.									No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.													
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						Badgeworth	Cowley	Gubberley	Great Witcomb	Leckhampton	Prestbury	Shurdington	Staverton	Swindon	Uckington	Up-Hatherley	Badgeworth	Cowley	Gubberley	Great Witcomb	Prestbury	Shurdington	Staverton	Swindon	Uckington	Up-Hatherley	TOTAL	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards																							
Small Pox ...	4			2	1	1							2	2									2	1						3
Cholera ...															1															
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup																														
Erysipelas ...	2																													
Scarlet Fever ...	28		3	21	1	3		9	4	6				1	7	1				9	4	6		1	7					27
Typhus Fever ...																														
Enteric Fever ...																														
Relapsing & continued Fever }																														
Puerperal Fever...																														
Measles ...																														
TOTALS ...	34		3	23	2	6		10	4	6			2	3	8	1			9	4	6		2	2	7					30

Infectious
Diseases

Thirty-four notifications of infectious disease were received, of which 2 were of Erysipelas, 4 of Diphtheria, and 28 of Scarlet Fever. Of these, 27 Scarlet Fever cases and 3 Diphtheria cases were isolated in Hospital. None of the Scarlet Fever cases proved fatal, but one of the Diphtheria cases did.

Vaccination

From the returns furnished by the Vaccination Officer for the District, I learn that 93 births were registered in the year. 31 certificates of successful Vaccination were received, 33 certificates of exemption on the score of conscience were excepted. 4 infants died, 2 were removed beyond the District and 22, some of whom were under 4 months, remained still unvaccinated.

The increasing number of children unprotected against Smallpox is shewn in the following table :—

	Births.	Vaccinated	Exemption Certificates.	Died.
1905	87	48	24	—
1906	87	57	22	3
1907	89	52	18	5
1908	95	55	34	1
1909	93	31	33	4

Badgeworth

The parish is of 3,337 acres, lying in the valley on more or less clay soil throughout. The population is of 838, in 198 inhabited buildings. It is the second parish in point of acreage and population.

Sewage disposal by cesspools, midden-privies, and occasional water closets. No system of sewerage or organised drainage.

Water supply is in parts from the public mains, in others from spring water, under the control of the Council, but mainly from shallow wells and rain water. The former liable to surface pollution and the latter stored in receptacles which are not readily accessible for cleansing purposes.

Four deaths occurred in residents over the age of 50. There were no deaths from infectious maladies. Nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, and one of Erysipelas. The fever cases were all removed to Hospital.

Cowley

An Agricultural parish with an acreage of 1,898, situated on the hill. Population 269 in 65 inhabited houses. Includes Cowley village, Stockwell, and part of Birdlip. Water supply from shallow wells or springs, with the exception of the portion of Birdlip which has a public water supply. The disposal of sewage is by cesspits and middens.

Three deaths occurred in individuals over 60 years of age.

No cases of infectious disease were notified

Cobberley

An Agricultural parish adjoining Cowley and like it situated on the Cotswolds, has an acreage of 3,639. Population 269 in 75 inhabited houses. Includes Cobberley village, Ullenwood, Seven Springs, Salterley, and Upper Cobberley.

The water supply is entirely by wells and springs, and the sewage disposal is by cesspools, midden-privies, and W.C.'s in the village itself.

Eleven deaths were registered, of which seven were of individuals over 70 years of age, two were of infants, and three from accident or suicide.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and removed to Hospital.

Great Witcomb

An Agricultural parish, situated on the crest and slope of the Cotswolds, has an acreage of 942. Population 126 in 28 inhabited houses. The water supply is from the Birdlip water supply and from wells and springs. There are W.C.'s, but Cesspools and midden-privies are the chief means of sewage disposal.

There were no deaths in the parish during the year.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, all of which were removed to Hospital.

Leckhampton

Partly Agricultural, partly Residential, situated on the rising ground towards the hills, adjoins the borough, and is in character suburban. Has an acreage of 1·289 with a population of 358 in 74 inhabited houses.

The lower portion of the parish is sewered to the urban mains, and has the urban water supply. The rest of the parish is supplied by wells and springs and disposes of its sewage in cesspools and midden-privies.

Four deaths occurred, one of which was by suicide.

There were no cases of infectious notifiable disease during the year.

Prestbury

Mainly residential, partly Agricultural, situated at the foot of the hills, partly in clay, adjoins the borough and is suburban in character. The acreage of the parish is 1,393 with a population of 1,393 in 305 inhabited houses. It includes the village of Prestbury and Marle Hill. The most populated areas are Prestbury Road, Swindon Lane, Noverton, Coronation Road, Oakland Avenue, Shaw Green, and New Barn Lane. The water supply in the village and suburban parts is from the urban water supply, elsewhere by springs and wells. The greater part of the parish has W.C.'s, and is efficiently sewered ; a portion still disposes of its sewage by cesspools and midden-privies.

Twenty-four deaths were registered giving a death-rate of 17 per 1,000 for the parish.

Of these deaths, 3 were from cancerous disease, and 2 were from Phthisis.

Two cases only of Diphtheria were notified, both of which were removed to Hospital, where one proved fatal.

Shurdington

An Agricultural parish situated in the valley. Acreage 1,068. Population 447 in 94 inhabited dwellings. It includes Shurdington village and that of Little Shurdington. There is no public water supply beyond the village pump. The greater part of the village is sewered, the sewage disposal field being within the parish itself. W.C.'s in the village only, elsewhere sewage is disposed of in midden-privies and cesspools.

The deaths in this parish amounted to 6, and with the exception of one, all were in individuals over 70 years of age.

Two cases of Diphtheria occurred, one of which was isolated in Hospital.

Staverton

An Agricultural parish, lying entirely in the valley on clay soil. Has an acreage of 1,022. Population 413 in 89 inhabited dwellings. It includes the village of Staverton, Staverton Bridge, and the Golden Valley. The Village is drained by main drainage to carry away slop water only. Sewage disposal is by cesspools, midden-privies, and a few W.C.'s.

The water supply is entirely by wells

Of the 4 deaths of residents, one occurred outside the District. All were of individuals over 80 years of age.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Erysipelas were notified. The Fever cases were all isolated in Hospital.

Swindon

An Agricultural parish of 730 acres. Population 233 in 57 inhabited dwellings. Water supply mainly by wells, with a public supply from well and pump.

Sewage disposal by W.C.'s, midden-privies, and cesspools.

There were 9 deaths of residents, giving a death-rate for the parish of 38 per 1,000.

Of these, 5 were of young children, who died from the after effects of Measles. One was the result of accident, and one from Phthisis.

No cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred.

Uckington

An Agricultural parish, lying in the valley on clay soil. Has an acreage of 884. Population 124 in 33 houses. Water supply from wells. There are stand pipes supplying water from urban water mains. Sewage disposal by cesspools and midden-privies.

One death from senile decay at 92 was the only death registered in the parish.

There were no cases of infectious disease.

Up-Hatherley

An Agricultural parish, situated in the valley. Has an acreage of 538 and a population of 113 in 22 houses.

Water supply from public mains.

One death only at 69 years of age was recorded. There were no cases of infectious malady.

Bakehouses and Slaughter-house

Only one slaughter-house exists in the District, and 4 bakehouses. These in the several parishes have been under observation, and no reports as to unsatisfactory conditions have been made.

Water Analyses

In addition to routine analyses of water supplies, other than from the mains, to new houses and of the various supplies under the control of the Council, other analyses have been made as occasion demanded. With regard to suspected or unsafe wells, no legal action has been necessary, but in all cases where the supply was unsafe, a connection with the mains has been effected.

New Buildings

Thirty-eight plans for new buildings have been passed, and 27 new buildings have been completed and received. Twelve houses have been newly connected to sewers, and 11 W.C.'s have been newly supplied with flushing boxes.

Thirteen earth-closets or improved privies have been constructed.

Sewers and Sewerage

Loans have been granted for extending sewers and sewage disposal works. The condition of existing sewers and outfall works continues satisfactory.

Water Supply

Extension of mains has been effected, new connections have been made with public water supply, and unfit supplies have been abolished and proper supplies substituted.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

(MR. BRAIN, M.R.C.V.S.)

“In making my inspection of the Cows in the Cheltenham Rural District, I visited 35 Farms, and inspected 536 Cows ; 14 of these I condemned as being tuberculous, and the owners got rid of them.

Three of these were tested with Tuberculin to satisfy the owners, and re-acted very badly.

Taken on the whole, I found the Cows good, and in good condition ; on only two Farms were they bad.

In most cases the Cowsheds were good and the Cows kept clean and well cared for.

I think a periodical inspection of the Cows, with the drafting of clinically affected animals, would ensure a reasonably healthy Herd ; and if these were kept in reasonably healthy Cowsheds, it would do away with the necessity of the drastic open-air treatment which is now being brought forward, and which renders the carrying on of the milk trade so unpleasant and difficult. Taken on the whole I think the conditions under which the milk trade is carried on in this District compares very favourably with other places ; and I found the Cowkeepers quite willing to assist me in every way in carrying out the wishes of the Council.”

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT,
(MR. E. W. MOORE.)

“ Nuisances have been reported, and in most cases abated, in connection with :—

- Draining and Testing—20
- Fouling of Water Courses and Road Side Ditches—8
- Refuse Heaps and Ashpits—5.
- Dirty and Dilapidated Houses—20
- Overcrowding—1
- Disinfections after Infectious Diseases—33
- Wells, Water Samples taken for M.O.H.—9
- Cesspits and Closet Accommodation—16

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS.
(513)

- Cow Sheds Inspections and Re-Inspections—159 (30 Farms)
- Disinfections after Infectious Diseases—33
- Draining and Testing ditto—62
- Wells, Water Supplies—23
- Cleaning of Houses—38
- Schools, Ventilation and Closet Accommodation of ditto—11
- Cesspits, Closet Accommodation, &c.—30
- Nuisances abated, Refuse Heaps—5
- Water-courses—13
- Routine Visits, House-to-house Inspections, &c.—139”

Co-operation and help has been readily afforded to your Officers by the County Medical Officer, the Clerk, Councillors of the various Parishes, the Medical Officers of the various Districts, the Veterinary Surgeon and Building Surveyor.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. JOHNS, M.D., D.P.H.

March 31st, 1910.